

deduce that the Indian Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra* L. – a very curious Satyrine – was associated with the betel palms, and came to drink from the toddy tapping. But I had trump in butterflies; earlier that day I had found a full-grown larva of the Giant Orange Tip *Hebomoia glaucippe*, one of the largest of the Pierids and one of nature's more dramatic butterflies.

The larva is a beautiful green, with little ornamentation, and when undisturbed looks pretty much like a large normal pierid, except that thoracic area has a larger diameter than the abdominal and when disturbed can puff up and display two huge, very realistic eyes that were not visible before. The betel nut-pickers were unanimous: "Snake!!!" The larva relaxed, but only the bravest of the brave ventured forward to touch it, to provoke the display once again. This was really good fun!

Which predators would be scared by this type of display? The Large Orange Tip feeds mainly on caper creepers, and here both monkeys and browsing birds were likely culprits. The pickers all agreed that both birds and monkeys ate larvae, but were monkeys scared of snakes? "Yes!," said Gordon emphatically, and pretty soon I had him, four pickers, a bunch of bananas, and sundry pieces of rope in various sizes and colours in my car. For up the road to Ooty were families of monkeys waiting for kind people to toss them some food, which we duly did, and much appreciated it was too, more being applied for with menaces. With the third bits of banana we also threw a piece of garishly coloured rope ... and watch those monkeys run! In absolute panic!! The four pickers on the back seat were almost sick with laughter. We tried out other colours and rope lengths with different groups of monkeys and the result was always the same (we later tried with sugar cane but – not surprisingly – they seemed to recognize this plant).

Back at Gordon's place, the pickers excitedly told their story to the rest of the crowd, and all gathered round us as we explained false-heads, camouflage, and mimicry. They now looked at both us and on butterflies with a lot more respect. And Gordon and I had many interesting adventures pending.– TORBEN B. LARSEN, Bangladesh, World Bank, 1818 H. Street N. W., Washington D.C., 20433, USA (E-mail: torbenlaarsen@compuserve.com).

### ***Psylliodes luteola* (Müller, O. F.) (Col.: Chrysomelidae) in Wiltshire**

The current status of *P. luteola* in this country has recently been reviewed and a map provided of its current distribution (Cox, 2000. *Coleopterist* 9: 55-63). Most recent records are from Oxfordshire although this frequency may perhaps be directly attributable to the intense chrysomelid recording activity in that county since the mid-1980's. Reference is made to an existing record from South Wiltshire, but no details are provided. It is likely that this reference is to a specimen which I beat from birch scrub bordering woodland near to an arable field on Stony Hill, Great Ridge near Fonthill Bishop, Wiltshire (grid reference ST 9536) on 8 August 1985. I am unaware of any additional records from the county.– DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.